BOGUE BANKS WATER NEWS

There will be a new addition to the skyline on Bogue Banks soon. BBWC is building a new water tower in Indian Beach to help better serve the community on the eastern end of our service area. The tower will allow us to use 2 of our existing treatment plants in the in tandem instead of alternating them. This decreases overall pump runtimes for both plants and almost doubles our production capacity at the eastern end.

Ever wondered how the water pressure in your home is created and maintained? It's a simple science concept of water trying to level itself out in its entire interconnected container. In this case, from our towers to your in-home sources. We pump the water up into the tower and gravity does the rest! Thousands of interconnected valves that dispense water on demand across our entire water system. It's the reason you still have water when the power goes out. As long as we can keep water in the towers, the distribution system will stay active. During extended power outages we have large generators to keep the water flowing as long as possible.

The pressure in your home is tied directly to the height of the water in the towers. Water Pressure is equal to 0.433 psi per foot of water. If the water level in the tower at the office is 127', then the system pressure is approximately 55psi. This is a normal operating pressure for our system. Many factors will determine the final pressure at your home. If your home is built up on a 10' hill, with 10' stilts, and 3 stories tall, then you've lost 50' of elevation or 22psi to the top floor of the home. Other factors that affect pressure include the number of 90-degree bends in the plumbing, water filtration systems, and water softeners.

Water flow is related to pressure and commonly mistaken as pressure. A common flow issue we encounter is a normal starting pressure followed by a drop in available flow to the rest of the home while one source is in use. For example, flushing a toilet downstairs causes a noticeable decrease in flow upstairs. This is caused by insufficient water flow to the home or to parts of the home, not the utilities system pressure. Causes could be partially closed valves, undersized water lines, clogged lines, and water softeners or other customer filtration equipment in need of maintenance or repair.

Water conservation, especially during the warmer months, has been a focus of Bogue Banks Water for several years now. Small adjustments made by the thousands of customers we have can really add up. We are seeing on average 500,000 gallons a day less usage compared to 5 years ago. Irrigation is still the biggest use of water by far in the warm months, but we thank you for making the changes you have and starting the process of using water in a conservative, efficient manner. Ensuring sprinkler heads are not spraying on the street or driveways, utilizing natural landscaping and native plants, and functioning rain sensors are all great ways to maintain your lawn while reducing your water dependence. Instead of blindly running your system for a couple hours at night, contact your irrigation installer or local landscape company about how long it should run. They can perform calculations based on your individual zones and system to tell you exactly how long it should run. You may be overwatering. Artificial lawns, rock gardens, and a higher landscaped area to grass percentage are other great alternatives for lowering water dependency. Take a site seeing drive around the island, there are lots of great examples in our community already!

To keep up with our rising costs, we will be increasing the fees, base rates, and water usage prices by an average of 5% this year. We try our best to keep the impact of raising prices to a minimum and have spread the increases out accordingly based on our tiered billing system. The lower usage tiers have a smaller increase than the large tiers do. The increase will be on your bill sent out in April. The full rate increase listing can be found on our website at: BogueBanksWater.com.